

were three that proved to be discouraging handicaps: (1) The weakened condition of the men, due to exposure and hardships on the front; (2) the epidemics of dysentery and bad colds, to both of which at least 75 per cent. of the men fell victims; and (3) the bad conditions under which we had to march and sleep. The distressing, continuous coughing that went on all night long in the billets (usually cow barns) during the march, still haunts us, and the "line of skirmishers" that was quickly formed, often at double time, immediately after every "fall out" along the road, is still a familiar scene to all of us. As usual, a few fell by the wayside, choosing rather to press the springs of a hospital cot than the mud of a French highway.

We broke all our hiking records on the first day of the hike, November 18, when we made 31 kilometers (about 20 miles). That day's march so nearly "finished" us, that it took us three days to recuperate. We took the rest of the hike in "broken doses," and suffered less disastrous results.

During the hike overcoats were worn according to military orders, which did not always coincide with changes in the weather. It was nothing unusual to hike in the rain with rain coats and overcoats strapped on our packs. In spite of strict orders to keep everything we had, we were short many pieces of equipment and clothing when we reached our destination.